



# WILLIAMSBURG

## Hampshire County



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## NARRATIVE

### Narrative

While scenic Williamsburg is a quiet little town from which one may, summer or winter, step into the forests of the Berkshire Hills, it is the last stop on the Pioneer Valley bus system that connects the town to Northampton, Amherst and all the educational, cultural and market opportunities that the five college campuses attract. The population includes many families that have descended from those farmers that settled where they had cleared the woods more than two hundred years ago, intermarried with the industrialists and immigrant mill workers that made their way up the river in the mid-nineteenth century. There is also a large population of educators, professionals and others who have come to Williamsburg over the years, to enjoy the peace and tranquility of small town life. Perhaps, the character of the town is owed to the fabric of its past: an unusual history that has gone largely untold for generations. In 1874, the mill town, as it was then, suffered a great industrial disaster when the huge, poorly constructed reservoir burst, demolishing many mills, homes and lives along its course to the Connecticut River in Northampton. Heroes rode before the flood saving hundreds of lives. Volunteers retrieved the dead and revived the villages. Few of the factories were rebuilt and many of the industries were moved to other locations and the laboring population followed. Time has healed those scars with fresh vegetation and a new generation born without the memories of the past. The main streets of both villages, Williamsburg and Haydenville, feature remarkable examples of Greek Revival architecture in homes and public buildings; this pride of the industrial era, on higher ground, spared by the raging flood. Today, can be seen the effects of volunteerism, in the museums, libraries, schools and activities of all ages. There seems to be a helping hand and live and let live attitude that has yet to be overwhelmed by the ravages of other types of inundations. There is an ongoing spirit, a civic pride, prompting gifts and endowments in a time honored tradition. There is a certain solidarity in the organization of the town, its people, and the institutions and societies they have formed, as though the town owns the people.

(Narrative supplied by community)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Western Massachusetts, bordered by Conway on the north, Whately and Hatfield on the east, Northampton and Westhampton on the south, and Chesterfield and Goshen on the west. Williamsburg is 8 miles north of Northampton, 26 miles north of Springfield, 101 miles west of Boston, and 163 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 25.72 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 25.63 sq. miles

**Population:** 2,515

**Density:** 98 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Cummington Hill Station)

Normal temperature in January.....19.9°F

Normal temperature in July.....67.3°F

Normal annual precipitation.....46.0"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Williamsburg, Goshen, Easthampton, Westhampton

## Regional Planning Agency

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Springfield



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 268-7301

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Administrative Assistant

Open Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1771

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	1,493		
Democrats	429	28.7	%
Republicans	222	14.9	%
Other parties	3	0.2	%
Unenrolled Voters	839	56.2	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Williamsburg town, Hampshire County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	2,427	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	2,427	100.0
Male.....	1,145	47.2	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	16	0.7
Female.....	1,282	52.8	Mexican.....	6	0.2
Under 5 years.....	108	4.4	Puerto Rican.....	4	0.2
5 to 9 years.....	150	6.2	Cuban.....	-	-
10 to 14 years.....	179	7.4	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	6	0.2
15 to 19 years.....	126	5.2	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	2,411	99.3
20 to 24 years.....	76	3.1	White alone.....	2,368	97.6
25 to 34 years.....	280	11.5	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	434	17.9	Total population.....	2,427	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	534	22.0	In households.....	2,427	100.0
55 to 59 years.....	112	4.6	Householder.....	1,027	42.3
60 to 64 years.....	115	4.7	Spouse.....	531	21.9
65 to 74 years.....	160	6.6	Child.....	637	26.2
75 to 84 years.....	118	4.9	Own child under 18 years.....	501	20.6
85 years and over.....	35	1.4	Other relatives.....	68	2.8
Median age (years).....	41.5	(X)	Under 18 years.....	16	0.7
18 years and over.....	1,909	78.7	Nonrelatives.....	164	6.8
Male.....	900	37.1	Unmarried partner.....	86	3.5
Female.....	1,009	41.6	In group quarters.....	-	-
21 years and over.....	1,847	76.1	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	381	15.7	Noninstitutionalized population.....	-	-
65 years and over.....	313	12.9	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	146	6.0	Total households.....	1,027	100.0
Female.....	167	6.9	Family households (families).....	658	64.1
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	302	29.4
One race.....	2,401	98.9	Married-couple family.....	531	51.7
White.....	2,377	97.9	With own children under 18 years.....	227	22.1
Black or African American.....	6	0.2	Female householder, no husband present.....	90	8.8
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	2	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	55	5.4
Asian.....	12	0.5	Nonfamily households.....	369	35.9
Asian Indian.....	-	-	Householder living alone.....	258	25.1
Chinese.....	-	-	Householder 65 years and over.....	93	9.1
Filipino.....	-	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	313	30.5
Japanese.....	7	0.3	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	239	23.3
Korean.....	-	-	Average household size.....	2.36	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	2.88	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	5	0.2	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	1,073	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	1,027	95.7
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	46	4.3
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	-	-	occasional use.....	16	1.5
Some other race.....	4	0.2	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.8	(X)
Two or more races.....	26	1.1	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	3.3	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: <sup>3</sup>			Occupied housing units.....	1,027	100.0
White.....	2,403	99.0	Owner-occupied housing units.....	765	74.5
Black or African American.....	9	0.4	Renter-occupied housing units.....	262	25.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	11	0.5	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.50	(X)
Asian.....	14	0.6	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.97	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	3	0.1			
Some other race.....	13	0.5			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 0

Conventional Federal: 0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



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# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Public roads and highways in the area are generally in good condition and meet the demands of modern transportation.

### Major Highways

The principal highway is the Worcester Turnpike (State Route 9), a cross-state route. Interstate Route 91 running N-S is easily accessible at the interchange in neighboring Hatfield.

### Rail

There is no passenger or freight rail service in Williamsburg, but the network of intermodal facilities serving Massachusetts is easily accessible.

### Bus

Williamsburg is a member of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVRTA), which provides fixed route service between Northampton, Hadley, Amherst, and Williamsburg. The Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) offers paratransit services to the elderly and disabled through the Williamsburg Council on Aging.

### Other

The LaFleur Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located in Northampton, has a 3,506'x 50' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

R & R Sunny Acres Nursing Home

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.